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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Governor Walker Declares Coastal Awareness Month, Announces Coastal Grant Application Program

**Madison** – Governor Scott Walker proclaimed September 2017 as <u>Coastal Awareness Month</u> in Wisconsin in recognition of the important impact the Great Lakes have on the state.

"It's critical we highlight the importance of our Great Lakes," said Governor Walker. "They drive Wisconsin's economic growth through connecting us with the national and global economy, as well as provide us all with increased tourism, recreation, and greater appreciation for our state's rich natural history."

The Department of Administration's Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) is accepting grant applications for proposals to enhance and protect resources within Wisconsin's coastal zone.

WCMP, now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year, works cooperatively with Great Lakes stakeholders to help protect and enhance the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the Great Lakes while encouraging responsible economic development. The program anticipates awarding approximately \$1.5 million in grant funding for the 2018 Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant Program.

"The proclamation is a reminder for the people of Wisconsin to protect, promote and enjoy the state's Great Lakes," said Secretary Scott Neitzel. "We are committed to ensuring the Great Lakes remain a vibrant part of Wisconsin's economy and quality of life."

Applicants may contact WCMP staff to discuss proposal ideas and application requirements. Application materials are available on the WCMP <u>website</u>. Applications are due November 3, 2017.

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